

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An agent for decontaminating soil, groundwater or sediment contaminated with hexavalent chromium, said decontaminating agent comprising:

at least one of iron (0) and ferrous iron in a hexavalent chromium decontaminating effective amount; and

a microbial biostimulant of at least one member selected from the group consisting of yeast extract, inactive yeast, active yeast and peptone in an amount effective for propagation and activation of indigenous hexavalent chromium reducing microorganisms and indigenous iron reducing microorganisms,

said agent acting in cooperation with indigenous hexavalent chromium reducing microorganisms present in said contaminated soil, groundwater or sediment to chemically and biologically reduce hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium, and

said agent acting in cooperation with indigenous iron reducing microorganisms present in said contaminated soil, groundwater or sediment to regenerate ferrous iron oxidized by chemical reduction of said hexavalent chromium.

2. (currently amended): A method for decontaminating soil, groundwater or sediment contaminated with hexavalent chromium, said method comprising:

adding a decontaminating agent comprising at least one of iron (0) and ferrous iron in a hexavalent chromium decontaminating effective amount, and a microbial biostimulant of at least one member selected from the group consisting of yeast extract, inactive yeast, active yeast and

peptone to said contaminated soil, groundwater or sediment in an amount effective for propagation and activation of indigenous hexavalent chromium reducing microorganisms and iron reducing microorganisms, to thereby reduce hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium

said agent acting in cooperation with indigenous hexavalent chromium reducing microorganisms present in said contaminated soil, groundwater or sediment to chemically and biologically reduce hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium, and

said agent acting in cooperation with indigenous iron reducing microorganisms present in said contaminated soil, groundwater or sediment to regenerate ferrous iron oxidized by chemical reduction of said hexavalent chromium.

3. (new): The method of claim 2, wherein said decontaminating agent comprises ferrous iron in a hexavalent chromium decontaminating effective amount.